

THE SEA COAST ECHO, BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

SANTA BANNED BY PURITAN FATHERS

No Christmas Festivities or Gifts for Children in Massachusetts in Early Days

DAY JUST LIKE ANY OTHER

Condition Somewhat Better for Youngsters in New Amsterdam—Holiday Observance Toyless in the Colonies in Seventeenth Century

In the early days of this country's history Christmas festivities were not generally observed and poor old "Santa Claus" and all he represents, had hard time of it.

In Massachusetts the observation of Christmas was utterly denounced as an evil, ungodly and pernicious custom and any child daring to think of as much as a plum pudding on that day would make herself liable to reprimand by the authorities. All along the stern and rock-bound coast Gertrude Ames writes in the "Puritan," the only Christmas tree in the days of the Puritan domination were those that nature had planted there and had adorned with fleecy snow. The fires burned brightly on the open hearths, but as far as the children knew Christmas was just like any other day in the calendar. Even after the Puritan reaction against the forms and customs of the old church had sent itself to some extent the children of the seventeenth century still expected no gifts in honor of the birth of Christ.

In New Amsterdam the outlook was a little better for the children. The Hollanders had brought with them their St. Nicholas, and his birthday was celebrated joyously by young and old just before Christmas, but Christmas was also observed. Of course, they had not many real toys as we know them today, but in the shoe that the little Hollanders set by the fireplace in the shining kitchen, which was also the dining room, were homemade gifts. Many of these were of a useful character, such as hand-knit caps and mittens, but new and then a skillful Hollander would carve a model of a boat such that which had brought them to New Amsterdam, or a miniature chest of drawers, and one can fancy the recipients showing these with pride to the wondering little Indian boys and girls when they came to be on terms of sufficient intimacy with them for such conferences.

In Virginia, where the church of England was strong and its adherents steadfastly observed the holidays as in the home country, there was always more of the Christmas spirit and abundant cheer and merrymaking than elsewhere at this season. Here the Yule log held its place and here were the games and the feasting that made it indeed the merry season of the year. Later when New Amsterdam became New York and the English came into power the character of the Christmas holiday was changed somewhat, although the Dutch influence continued dominant for many years.

Throughout the colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there were an almost unknown century, but wherever Christmas observations were not frowned upon by religion, feasting and good cheer were abundant, and bond and free, rich and poor, old and young, shared in the games, abundant food and genial atmosphere. In the eighteenth century toys began to make their appearance in the colonies. Some of them were brought from over seas and had the enchanting quality of novelty. Little girls who had helped to mother their younger brothers and sisters were delighted with dolls that were all their own, to fondle and cuddle. A toy was a thing to be cherished in those days. Some of the gifts were of real intrinsic value, for the shipping and trading were growing to be important factors in the colonies, and men brought treasures of all kinds from the far East to the seaports, whence they were distributed to other parts of the colonies. The war for independence interrupted this, and the children shared in the self-sacrifices and deprivations that were undergone by all the families living in the colonies at that time. When soldiers were starving at Valley Forge there was little thought in their homes of Christmas merrymakings and little out of which to provide it.

After the war there were still lean years, but by the opening of the nineteenth century peace and plenty smiled upon the land and Santa Claus found it safe to resume his visits and make his distributions.

GET BUSY.



He—What is the significance of mistletoe?

She—Well, it's used where a fellow hasn't the nerve to steal a kiss.

Perfect Deception.

Last year father played Santa Claus so well that even when he caught fire his identity was not revealed to the children."

"Marvelous!"

"Yes, indeed. He roared so loudly that none of the little dears recognized the voice."

THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's dear prayer,
And a baby's low cry!

While the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a king!

There's a tumult of joy
Over the wonderful birth,
For the Virgin's sweet boy
Is the Lord of the earth.

Aye, the star rains its fire
With the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a king!

In the light of that star
Be the ages impaled,
As the angels from afar
Has swept o'er the world.

Every hearth is afame,
And the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations
That Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light,
And we echo the song
That comes down through the night
From the heavenly throng.

Aye, the star rains its fire
With the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a king!

—Josiah G. Holland.

LORE OF THE YULE LOG

Should Be Lighted From Portion of Last Year's Which Should Be Preserved for Good Luck.

The Yule-log, a probable variant of the bonfire—so characteristic of sun festivals—has some interesting folklore of its own.

In medieval England, its duration coincided with the Christmas revels. As long as it burned, the tenant had a right to feed at the lord's expense. The log was often cut from an ash-tree—the sacred tree of our Saxon forefathers. There is a gypsy legend that our Lord was born in a field and brought up by an ash-tree.

The log should, properly, be lighted with a portion of last year's log, a piece of which is always supposed to be preserved for luck. At the same time that the Christmas fire was lit, the Christmas candle had to be lighted. A portion of last year's taper has also to be kept. It was unlucky to snuff the Christmas candle, which burned for 12 days—the period of festivity. At St. John's college, Oxford, can still be seen the ancient stone socket with the Agnus Dei stamp, in which the Christmas candle was placed on the high table.

On the Isle of Man, the folk formerly carried long tapers to church on Christmas eve.

AND BEFORE CHRISTMAS, TOO.



Jeanette, you are the light of my life. You're my sun, my stars, my all, you're my—

"Yes, George. I know all that; but you're broke."

The Bubble Burst.

Young Tom was spending Christmas in the country and had been invited to the beautiful home of a sweet young thing named Agnes.

"What a charming place!" he said enthusiastically, to Agnes' proud parents. "Does it go as far as those woods over there?"

"It does," remarked the somewhat unsympathetic father.

"Ah," said Tom, still cheerily; "and to that old stone wall over there, sir?"

"It does," came the gruff answer; "and it goes as far as the river on the south, and to the main road on the north."

"Beautiful!" put in Tom.

"Yes," went on the old man, "but it doesn't go with Agnes!"

Then Tom faded peacefully from view.

Stockings for Christmas Only.

The Christmas stocking as generally known is one taken from the bureau supply for daily wear. In certain parts of the country, however, the Christmas stocking is never in use except to be "hung from the chimney with care." The New England stocking of this kind is usually long in the leg and knitted from woolen yarn. There are stockings on Cape Cod which have been used by four generations of children. Once emptied of their treasure on Christmas morning they are rolled up and marked and laid away for the next year's festivities.

Remember Old Friends.

"What? A holiday greetings card with old Bill's name scribbled across it?" "Good old Bill! Why, it's 11 years almost since we saw each other, and here he's not forgotten me, even yet!"

Huh, Mary, you needn't be so all-fired proud of that scart Aunt Susie sent you. This may be only a colored postcard, but, by George, it's from Bill!" "Well, well—this sure is Christmas!"

Perfect Deception.

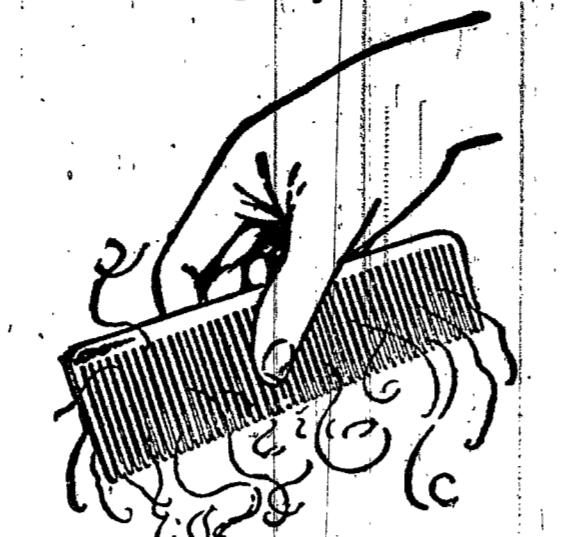
Last year father played Santa Claus so well that even when he caught fire his identity was not revealed to the children."

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"Yes, indeed. He roared so loudly that none of the little dears recognized the voice."

"DANDERINE" STOPS HAIR FALLING OUT

Hurry! A few cents will save your hair and double its beauty.



A little "Danderine" cools, cleanses and makes the feverish, itchy scalp soft and pliable; then this stimulating tonic penetrates to the firmed hair roots, revitalizing and invigorating every hair in the head, thus stopping the hair falling out, getting thin, scraggly or fading.

After a few application of "Danderine" you seldom find a fallen hair or a particle of dandruff, besides every hair shows more life, vigor, brightness, color and thickness.

A few cents buys a bottle of delightful "Danderine" at any drug or toilet counter.—Adv.

Unheeded Eloquence.

"We haven't many of the old-fashioned orators."

"We don't need them," answered Senator Borghen. "Everybody now feels perfectly competent to make a speech. What we really need is more audience."

TRY BLACK-DRAGHT.

Buy a package of Black-Drught today.—Adv.

A BRIGHT, CLEAR COMPLEXION

is always admired, and it is the laudable ambition of every woman to do all she can to make herself attractive. Many of our southern women have found that Tetterine is invaluable for clearing up blotches, itchy patches, etc., and making the skin soft and velvety. The worst cases of eczema and other torturing skin diseases yield to Tetterine. Sold by druggists or sent by mail for 50¢ by Shuptrine Co., Savannah, Ga.—Adv.

Those Girls.

Kitty—Jack was miserable when he kissed me good-by at the station.

Catty—I don't pity him one bit; he didn't have to kiss you.

Important to Mothers.

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, that famous old remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the

Signature of

In Use for Over 30 Years.

Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

One Class.

"Do you know of any one class of men who are always upright and square in their business methods?"

"Certainly: piano manufacturers."

WHY DRUGGISTS RECOMMEND SWAMP-ROOT

For many years druggists have watched with much interest the remarkable record maintained by Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney, liver and bladder medicine.

It is a physician's prescription.

Swamp-Root is a strengthening medicine. It helps the kidneys, liver and bladder do the work nature intended they should do.

Swamp-Root has stood the test of years. It is sold by all druggists on its merit and it should help you. No other kidney medicine has so many friends.

Be sure to get Swamp-Root and start treatment at once.

However, if you wish first to test this great preparation send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. When writing be sure and mention this paper.—Adv.

Overhead on a Car.

"Aren't people simply awful?"

"It's them profiteers. Truly, they're worse than the Forty Thieves were about in the Bible."—Boston Transcript.

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KEEP IT HANDY

If you paid a specialist \$25.00 for a prescription, you would not get anything that would give quicker relief for Croup, Catarrh, Colds, or Sore Throat, than VACHER BALM, which only costs 30¢ in jars, or tubes.

Write for Samples and Agent's Prices. Beware of imitations. E. W. Vacher, Inc., New Orleans, La.—Adv.

Enigmatic.

Father—Can the girl you are courting make a good batch of bread?

Son—Well, she can handle the dough all right.

CATARHINUS Cannot Be Cured

by local application as they cannot be cured by any other means. This is one way to cure Catarh in the System. HALL'S CATARRH CURE is the only cure for the Mucus Surfaces of the System. Catarh is caused by an inflamed condition of the nose, of the throat, of the lungs, of the bowels, etc. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result. Use HALL'S CATARRH CURE and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing may be restored forever. Many cases of Deafness can be cured by HALL'S CATARRH CURE, which is an inflamed condition of the Mucus Surfaces.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR ANY ONE OF THESE DISEASES CAN BE CURED BY HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

DRUGGISTS TO: CIRCULARS, Etc.

E. J. Grier & Co., Toledo, Ohio.

Could See Improvement.

Having had a severe illness I was looking thin and tired but during my summer outing grew fat and rosy. On my return home I met a small girl friend of mine who looked at me in an admiring manner and then said: "My, how your face must have had a nice vacation!"

Christmas.

What is the thought of Christmas?

Giving.

What is the joy of Christmas? Love.

No silver or gold is needed to give.

If the heart is in it Christmas is.

For the hope of the world is kindly liv-

ing.

Use MURINE.

Night Morning Keep Your Eyes

A "DEAD SHOT" SAYS MINISTER

Black-Draught Given High Praise as a Stomach and Liver Medicine by Well-Known Old Gentleman Who Has Used It.

Mineola, Texas.—The Rev. M. G. Jenkins, retired minister of the M. E. Church South, living in this city, says: "I have used Black-Draught as a stomach and liver medicine, and have never found its equal.

Once I suffered for two months with cramps and pains, tried everything I could hear of without avail, but Black-Draught was a 'dead shot.'

I am known here and all over the state for my honesty and truthfulness. I am 78 years old and have used Black-Draught for years.

I can highly recommend it to any one as a liver medicine that has no equal. It is excellent for stomach, liver and other ailments. I use it for a bad taste in the mouth, headache and other sicknesses. What we really need is more audience."

Thedford's Black-Draught is purely vegetable, and acts actively on the bowels, gently stimulating the liver, and helping to increase the normal discharge of bile into the intestines.

It assists in the digestion of food and relieves constipation in a prompt and natural way.

TRY BLACK-DRAGHT. Buy a package of Black-Draught today.—Adv.

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